

REMARKS

Section numbers utilized herein correspond to section numbers in the Office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Examiner Leung's kind indication that claims 6-11, 15 and 23 are allowed is graciously acknowledged.

10. Claims 2-4 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2-4 have been rewritten as suggested and are thus believed to be allowable.

11. Claim 17 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and rewritten to overcome the minor formalities indicated above.

Claim 17 has been rewritten as suggested and is thus believed to be allowable.

12. Claims 19-22 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the minor formalities indicated above.

Claims 19-22 have been rewritten as suggested and are thus believed to be allowable.

1. **Information Disclosure Statement**

A PTO-1449 is submitted herewith, along with a fee sheet for the \$180 IDS filing fee.

Claim Objections**claim 13**

2. Claim 13 stands objected to as being a substantial duplicate of claim 9, or in the alternative of being of improper dependent form. The objection is respectfully traversed.

In response, it is respectfully noted that claim 13 (actually claims 12-15) were intended to be and have been amended to be dependent upon (allowed) independent claim 11, and are thus all believed to be allowable.

Claims 16-22

Claims 16-22 stand objected to because of minor informalities. The objections are respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the Office action notes the recitation of "inlet steam" on line 6 of claim 16, line 2 of claim 17, line 7 of claim 19, and line 2 of claim 20 are understood to be - inlet stream- with appropriate correction being required.

Claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 have been so corrected.

Claim 14

The Office action notes that claim 14 recites a limitation which includes reference to a "foundation," with insufficient antecedent basis for "foundation."

The dependency of claim 14 has been amended from "9" to "11," with claim 11 providing the necessary antecedent basis for "foundation."

Claim Rejections 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 5, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 3,225,552 to Farkas, in view of U.S. Pat. No. 2,332,227 to Jackson. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 5 has been amended to be dependent upon (allowable) claim 4, and is now thus believed to be allowable.

Dependent claim 18 has been amended to be dependent upon (allowable) claim 17, and is now thus believed to be allowable.

Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, applicant has cancelled claims 1, and 16, with the belief they are allowable, and the intent of pursuing them in a continuation application, merely to facilitate the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

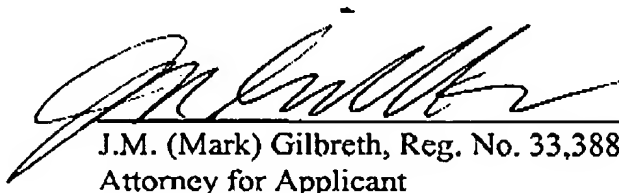
Summary

In view of the above Remarks and Amendments, prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If it would be of assistance in resolving any outstanding matter in this application, Examiner Leung is kindly invited to contact applicants attorneys Mark Gilbreth (ext 102) or Andrea Tran (ext 100), or agent Mary Gilbreth (ext 101), at 713/667-1200.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: **January 19, 2006**


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